

University of Illinois

Thesis in Architecture

1907



# DESIGN FOR A COUNTRY HOUSE

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BY

J. FRED MEYER, JR.

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THESIS

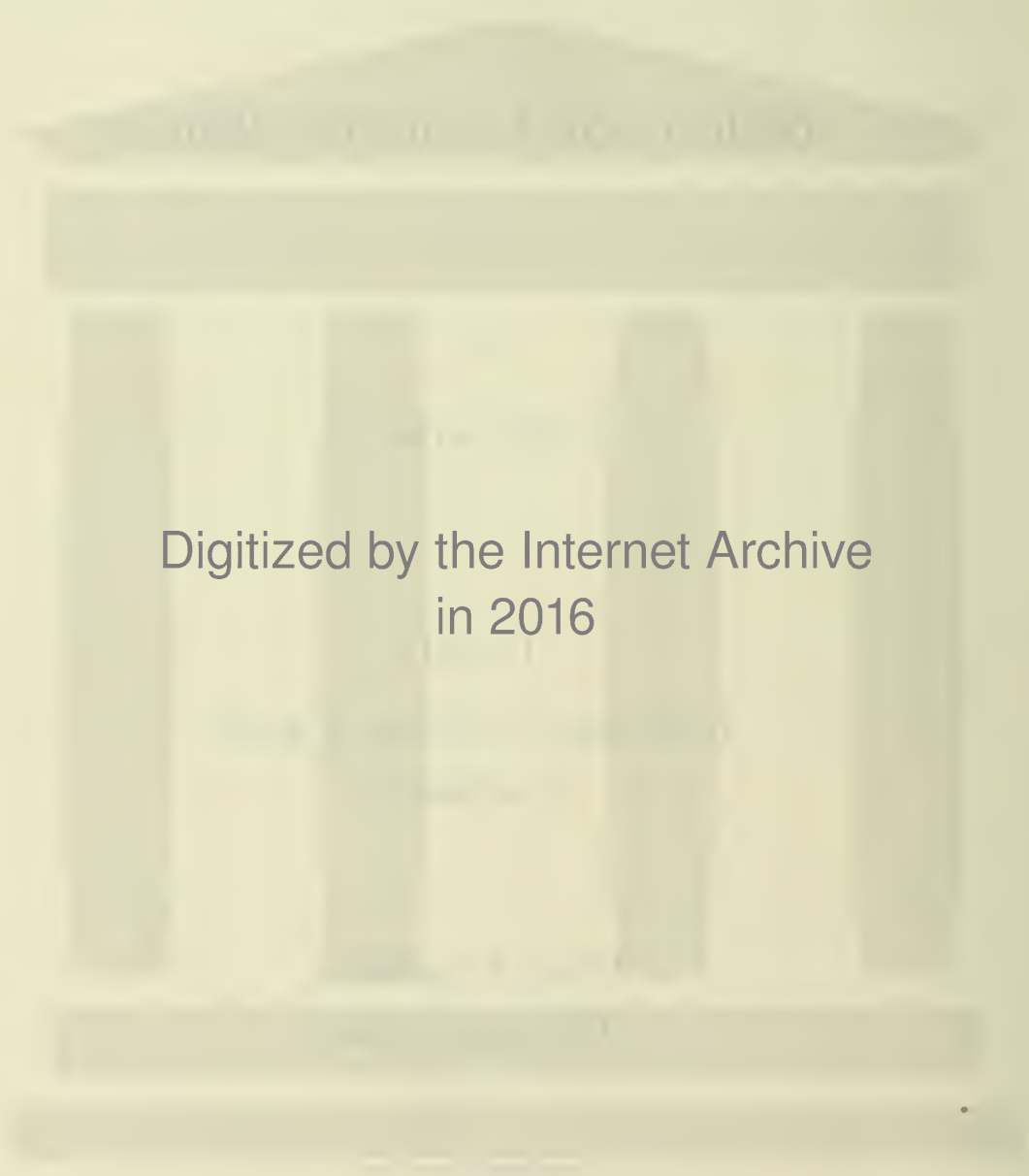
For the Degree of Bachelor of Science  
in Architecture

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College of Engineering  
University of Illinois

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PRESENTED, JUNE, 1907



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UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

June 1. 1907.

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THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT THE THESIS PREPARED UNDER MY SUPERVISION BY

John Frederick Meyer. Jr.

ENTITLED. DESIGN FOR A COUNTRY HOUSE

IS APPROVED BY ME AS FULFILLING THIS PART OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE

DEGREE OF Bachelor of Science in Architecture

*John H. Lease.*

Instructor in Charge.

APPROVED:

*N. Clifford Pickens.*

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT OF Architecture



### Drawings.

The drawings which this description accompanies consist of:-

an elevation, scale  $1/4" = 1'-0"$

a plan, scale  $3/32" = 1'-0"$

a plan and section, scale  $3/32" = 1'-0"$

### Subject.

The subject chosen for this thesis is the design of a Country Mansion.

### Site.

The house is to occupy a commanding site on a slight elevation in the heart of a large estate.

### General Requirements.

A house designed in this manner divides the problem into two parts namely in designing the house proper and in laying out the grounds and gardens.

### Description of Plan.

The main entrance to the house is through an oval vestibule to a large interior court. A 7'-0" balcony supported on a colonnade completely surrounds this central court, which is 36' square. This court, which is the main interior feature of the design, is in a rich Pompeian style with a fountain and tile floor. This court is between the two wings of the building which extend along the east and west sides. On the north side of the court is the main entrance and vestibule together with a small den and some toilet rooms.



On the south side is the stair hall which like the main court extends the entire height of the house and is built upon a grand scale to further enhance the beauty of the central court. The stair hall and the central court is cut up into colonnades in both stories.

The wing to the east of the court is divided into a dining room, a billiard room and kitchen apartments. The dining room is 32' X 38' in size, oval in shape and decorated by columns and niches.

The billiard room is 24' X 36' in size with south and east exposure and a buffet closet opens off of it. The kitchen and its accessories are in the northeast part of the house and consist of kitchen butlers pantry, servants dining room, etc.

The west wing is divided into a drawing room, guests apartments, a music room and a reception room. The guests suite in the south end of this wing is so placed that the occupants shall not be disturbed by the noise of the music and billiard rooms. The guests apartments contain a sitting room, bed room, bath and toilet rooms.

The stairs from the first floor lead to the balcony of central court, the balcony affords easy access to all rooms on the second floor. These rooms are divided into suites each containing dressing rooms, bed rooms, bath and toilet rooms. Over the kitchen apartments are placed the servants rooms.

#### Exterior.

A terrace 24' wide surrounds the entire house and



forms a base to the building as well as adding to the appearance of the surroundings. On the north between the wings is a porch connected with a porto-cochere. The house is designed in the English Tudor style. The carved gables, massive chimney's with the chimney pots and the heavy mullioned windows characteristic of that style being much in evidence in the elevations. A combination of brick and stone construction is used. Horizontal bands of stone were used to unify the design and to connect the parts in a compact whole. To tie the building together vertically quoins are placed at all right angle intersections of the different parts and on each side of the windows.

#### Grounds and Gardens.

The main feature of the gardens is a large pool 30' X 75' in size placed to the south of the house. Three short flights of steps with intervening strips of lawn enable one to get down to the level of the pool. The head of the pool is semi-circular and in the center is a fountain and statuary. Around this end of the pool is a large pergola at the grade level of the house. From this pergola in two directions toward the house are walks broken at the corners by other pergolas, stone garden seats, and statuary. The space between being closed with a stone balustrade. The scheme as designed is a sunken garden with a pool, etc., in the center, and surrounded at a higher level by walks, seats, pergolas etc.

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